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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Joseph Moore Sodowski, IV, formerly of Peoria, who passed away on May 20, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Joseph Sodowski, IV was born in Keokuk, Iowa on August 8, 1926 to Moore and Millie (nee Hicks) Sodowski; he graduated from Spalding Academy and Bradley University; he served as a Seaman 1st class in the United States Navy and is a plank owner of the U.S.S. Atlanta CL-104, which he served on in World War II from June 23, 1944 to February 18, 1946; he was also a founding member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Peoria; he also served on the U.S.S. Atlanta CL-104 as a Gun Capitan; he married Lana Rose Barto on August 15, 1951 in Long Beach, California; and

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WHEREAS, Joseph Sodowski, IV built his first set of docks on top of Illinois River ice in 1960 and Sodowski Boat Basin was open for business; through the 1960s, 70s, 80s, and 90's, he would hold multiple boater parties and the annual log races put on by the Coast Guard Auxiliary; he opened his business while working full-time as a truck driver and later a brewery worker at the Pabst Blue Ribbon Brewery in Peoria Heights; and

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WHEREAS, Joseph Sodowski, IV had a passion for the water;

1 the only thing he loved more than a boat ride was being the
2 captain of Me Thou and I, Millie, River Bum, Reel Hooker,
3 Popatop, and Gulf Bum; he drove Reel Hooker from the Sodowski
4 Boat Basin, mile marker 167.5 in Peoria Heights, down to Marina
5 Town, mile marker 138.5 on the Okeechobee Waterway in North
6 Fort Myers Florida; in 1979, he built his family home and
7 wife's dream house in Punta Gorda Isles, Florida, where the
8 family gathered every Christmas; he was a former member of St.
9 Peter Catholic Church; and

10 WHEREAS, Joseph Sodowski, IV was preceded in death by his
11 parents; his stepfather, John Chiotte; and his daughter, Tina
12 Sodowski; and

13 WHEREAS, Joseph Sodowski, IV is survived by his wife, Lana;
14 his children, Millie (David) Sodowski-Meyer and Joseph M.
15 (Marietta) Sodowski, V; his grandchildren, Scott (Veronica)
16 Elms, Matthew (Christina) Elms, Floyd Meyer, Joseph M.
17 Sodowski, VI, and Jenna Sodowski; and his great-grandchildren,
18 Ravin, Sophia, and Rosa Elms; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
21 Joseph Moore Sodowski, IV, and extend our sincere condolences
22 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
23 it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Joseph Sadowski, IV as an expression
3 of our deepest sympathy.